

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the matter of:

Proposal for the Creation
of the Low Power FM
(LPFM) Service

FCC-RM-9242

Comments of Timothy West

To whom it may concern:

I am in favor of the creation of a Low Power Broadcast FM Service. I am not connected with any area of commercial radio, nor do I stand to make any financial gain by advocating such a service. My reasons for the advocating of said service are enumerated below:

- **Monopoly of the current radio spectrum by BIG BUSINESS.**

You do not have to be in the radio business to know that radio broadcasting today is no longer possible by the person of modest means. Radio stations today are owned by giant companies with no interest in the local affairs of any community. When a typical broadcasting company owns 75 different stations, as is very typical today, there is no option for the common man to get into the business. The net effect is to drive up the price of stations into the tens of millions of dollars. This simply STOPS any voice other than those companies. When radio was first started, it was the actions of thousands of ordinary people that made radio exciting to listen to. The mix of ideas, formats, and shows that was possible with many OWNERS of stations, each trying to compete in an open marketplace, was what made radio during formative years. Radio, to survive in this era of the Internet (the NEW radio + TV), needs the input of ordinary citizens to compete. They can only get this through LOCAL, LOW COST ownership of stations.

- **These huge broadcasters stop innovation in radio formats.**

Another effect is the EXCESSIVE format duplication of these companies. They have copied the formats that are most successful onto all of their other holdings, meaning that we have about 8 radio formats today on the country as a whole. They ALL SOUND ALIKE as a result of this, and the end result is nothing but the exact same programming from one city to the next. As a result, it is possible for you to listen to any station in the US, blindfolded, and not know where you are. Radio used to have more than a few standard formats and a few variations on those formats. Why? Because the local nature of ownership made every station different, even in the same city! They reflected the ideas of their local owners, not some faceless company.

Summary: I believe it is in the country's best interest to adapt this RM. without delay, providing that reasonable output power levels (up to a 1KW level, and certainly not below 250 watts) and a first come, first served method of channel awarding is used. It is high time that radio broadcasting in the US be returned to the people who are supposedly the holders of the broadcasting spectrum in the first place. I don't think they have been in many years.

Respectfully,

Timothy West